

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall also contain a prohibition on an urban area that in a fiscal year is eligible to receive Federal assistance described in such paragraph from also receiving grant funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative under section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. In such a case, such plan shall require such an urban area to promptly notify the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding the preference of such urban area to retain either—

(A) such eligibility for such Federal assistance; or

(B) such receipt of such grant funding.

(b) **SURVEY.**—In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall, to ascertain the scope of Federal assistance required, survey urban areas that—

(1) did not receive grant funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative under section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 in the current fiscal year concerning homeland security capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to acts of terrorism that had been developed or otherwise supported through funding under such Initiative that are at risk of being reduced or eliminated without such Federal assistance;

(2) received such funding in the current fiscal year, but did not receive such funding in at least one fiscal year in the six fiscal years immediately preceding the current fiscal year; and

(3) any other urban areas the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) **EXEMPTION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security may exempt the Federal Emergency Management Agency from the requirements of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), for purposes of carrying out subsection (b) if the Secretary determines that complying with such requirements would delay the development of the plan required under subsection (a).

(d) **CONTENTS.**—The plan required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) establish eligibility criteria for urban areas to receive Federal assistance pursuant to such plan to provide assistance for the purpose described in such subsection;

(2) identify annual funding levels for such Federal assistance in accordance with the survey required under subsection (b); and

(3) consider a range of approaches to make such Federal assistance available to such urban areas, including—

(A) modifications to the Urban Area Security Initiative under section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 in a manner that would not affect the availability of funding to urban areas under such Initiative;

(B) the establishment of a competitive grant program;

(C) the establishment of a formula grant program; and

(D) a timeline for the implementation of any such approach and, if necessary, a legislative proposal to authorize any such approach.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5615, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act.

In the wake of September 11, there was a recognition that cities across the Nation could be targeted for terrorism and that they did not have the resources to develop core capabilities to prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist attacks and other catastrophic events on their own.

Starting in 2003, cities across the Nation began receiving dedicated counterterrorism grant funding from the Department of Homeland Security’s Urban Area Security Initiative grant program.

The UASI program, as it has come to be known, provides first responders with the tools, resources, and training they need to safely and effectively protect their communities.

At its height, the UASI program funded approximately 60 cities.

In recent years, however, the number of cities receiving funding from the program has been reduced to, on average, 30 each year.

While support to cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago has remained constant, year-to-year fluctuations in grant funding levels and changes in DHS’ risk formula have resulted in some cities losing funding unexpectedly.

As a result, cities like Orlando, Las Vegas, and Omaha face uncertainty year after year about whether they will receive UASI funding or will be forced to try and maintain core homeland security capabilities on their own.

The sudden loss of Federal support places great strain on cities that often lack the resources to cover such unexpected costs.

My bill, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act, which is cosponsored by my friend from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) recognizes the importance of preserving capabilities achieved with Federal grant dollars, particularly given how dynamic the terrorism threat landscape is today.

It directs DHS to develop a plan for how to support the transition of costs associated with maintaining homeland security core capabilities achieved through UASI investments.

Specifically, my bill would direct DHS, acting through FEMA, to survey current and former UASI cities regarding their capabilities that were achieved through UASI grant funding that are at risk of being reduced or eliminated without Federal assistance.

Additionally, the bill would require DHS, if needed, to submit a plan on

how to make Federal assistance available to former UASI jurisdictions to take on the costs of preserving UASI-funded homeland security capabilities, including legislation.

This plan is the first step to ensure that all cities have the capabilities they need to secure themselves from terrorist threats.

Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5615, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act.

The DHS Urban Area Security Initiative provides critical funding to high-risk urban areas. Since UASI funding is risk-based, there are urban areas that develop and support certain counterterrorism capabilities using the grant funding but don’t remain on the high-risk list and therefore don’t consistently receive funding every year.

This legislation simply directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a plan to make Federal assistance available for at least 3 consecutive fiscal years to certain urban areas that did not receive funding under UASI.

This plan will inform Congress about the needs and concerns of certain urban areas that may not consistently receive such funding.

I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 5615, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5615 is the first step in ensuring that cities that fall on and off the UASI list will have the opportunity to preserve their capabilities that were built out with the funding provided by the program.

Enacting H.R. 5615 is timelier now more than ever, particularly given how dynamic the terrorist threat landscape is today.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5615, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5615.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS BASIC TRAINING ACCREDITATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 5616) to require reporting regarding accreditation of basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5616

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. REPORTING ON BASIC TRAINING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the relevant congressional committees on the accreditation status for each basic training program within the Department of Homeland Security, including information relating to the following:

(A) The date on which each such program achieved initial accreditation, or in the case of a program that is not currently accredited, the reasons for not obtaining or maintaining accreditation, the activities, if any, taken to achieve accreditation, and an anticipated timeline for accreditation of such program.

(B) The date each such program most recently received accreditation or reaccreditation, if applicable.

(C) Each such program’s anticipated accreditation or next reaccreditation date.

(D) The name of the accreditation manager for each such program.

(2) TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Annual reports under paragraph (1) shall terminate when all basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security are accredited.

(b) LAPSE IN ACCREDITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a basic training program of the Department of Homeland Security loses accreditation, the head of the relevant component of the Department shall notify the Secretary of Homeland Security not later than 30 days after such loss.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a notification pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the relevant congressional committees of the lapse in accreditation at issue, the reason for such lapse, and the activities underway and planned to regain accreditation.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACCREDITATION.—The term “accreditation” means the recognition by a board that a basic training program is administered, developed, and delivered according to an applicable set of standards.

(2) ACCREDITATION MANAGER.—The term “accreditation manager” means the individual assigned by the component of the Department of Homeland Security to manage accreditation activities for a basic training program.

(3) BASIC TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term “basic training program” means an entry level program of the Department of Homeland Security that is transitional to law enforcement service, provides training on critical competencies and responsibilities, and is typically a requirement for appointment to a law enforcement service job or job series.

(4) REACCREDITATION.—The term “reaccreditation” means the assessment of a basic training program after initial accredi-

tation to ensure the continued compliance with an applicable set of standards.

(5) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “relevant congressional committees” means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee of the Judiciary of the Senate.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security shall carry out research and development of systems and technologies to enhance access to training offered by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement, with particular attention to law enforcement in rural and remote communities, for the purpose of enhancing domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism and other homeland security threats.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5616, the DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021.

Every year, DHS onboards thousands of new officers who all must successfully complete basic law enforcement training programs.

As a former police chief with 27 years of law enforcement service, I have seen how training saves lives.

Unfortunately, at DHS, several of the basic training programs tailored to component officers are not accredited.

In some cases, programs have been unaccredited for several years.

Unaccredited programs include: the U.S. Border Patrol Academy, the Customs and Border Protection’s Field Operations Academy Officer Basic Training program, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ Officer Basic Training program.

In 2019, the head of the Department’s Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers testified before the Homeland Security Committee that accreditation is important because it “assigns rigor to training processes” and “results in the best product.”

H.R. 5616 seeks to improve the quality of the training provided to all new DHS officers.

It does this by requiring the Department to report to Congress on the accreditation status of each of its basic training programs.

For those programs that are not accredited, it requires DHS to report: the reasons for not obtaining or maintaining accreditation; the activities, if any, taken to achieve accreditation; and the anticipated timeline for accreditation of the program.

Further, H.R. 5616 requires DHS to continue to report to Congress annually until all DHS basic training programs are accredited.

H.R. 5616 also directs DHS to engage in research to help State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers better access the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center training opportunities, including those that enhance national preparedness and response to terrorism.

I introduced this bill in October to direct DHS to prioritize improving its basic training programs to maintain a higher standard of excellence for new officers and position them to effectively safeguard the American people, our homeland, and institutions.

Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, February 7, 2022.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,

Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: This letter is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 5616, the “DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021,” that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 5616, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,

Washington, DC, February 7, 2022.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5616, the “DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021.” I recognize that the Committee on the Judiciary has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 5616, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to

its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House—Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 5616 in the Committee report on this measure and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this Nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,

Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5616, the DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on an annual basis on the accreditation status for each basic training program within the Department. It also requires congressional notification within 30 days of a lapse of accreditation for any Department basic training program.

This legislation will help bring needed congressional oversight to DHS basic training programs by ensuring that DHS is transparent about any accreditation shortcomings and properly addresses them.

Madam Speaker, I urge members to join me in supporting H.R. 5616, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, I think it is a good bill, and I commend my friend for bringing it to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, our top priority, as Members of Congress, is protecting the safety and security of the American people.

We have no room for error when it comes to keeping Americans safe.

H.R. 5616 prioritizes the quality of training DHS offers its newest officers and ensures that State, local, and Tribal law enforcement entities have better access to trainings that will make American communities safer.

I thank my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for unanimously supporting H.R. 5616.

Madam Speaker, I urge the rest of my colleagues to support H.R. 5616, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5616, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1615

SHADOW WOLVES ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5681) to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the “Shadow Wolves”) in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O’odham Nation as special agents, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5681

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act”.

SEC. 2. RECLASSIFICATION OF SHADOW WOLVES AS GS-1811 SPECIAL AGENTS.

The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is authorized—

(1) to reclassify the GS-1801 tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as “Shadow Wolves”) assigned to the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O’odham Nation, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, as GS-1811 special agents, upon the successful completion of—

(A) the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center’s Criminal Investigator Training Program; and

(B)(i) Customs Basic Enforcement School, if the officer was hired before March 2003; or
(ii) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Training, if the officer was hired during or after March 2003;

(2) to classify any Shadow Wolves who are assigned to the unit referred to in paragraph (1) after such date of enactment as GS-1811 special agents upon the successful completion of the training described in paragraph (1); and

(3) to classify as GS-1811 special agents upon the successful completion of the training described in paragraph (1) any Shadow Wolves who are hired as part of a comparable unit (regardless of location) established after such date of enactment with the approval and consent of the appropriate Indian tribe.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF SHADOW WOLVES PROGRAM.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Comptroller General of the United States, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a strategy for—

(1) retaining existing Shadow Wolves;
(2) recruiting new Shadow Wolves; and
(3) expanding comparable units referred to in section 2(3) to appropriate areas near the international border between the United States and Canada or the international bor-

der between the United States and Mexico, with the approval and consent of the appropriate Indian tribe.

SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after receiving the strategy required under section 3 and annually thereafter for the following two years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

(1) an assessment of the effectiveness of such strategy; and

(2) any recommendations for improvements to the strategy that the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5681, the Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act.

This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, seeks to resolve limitations to career advancement and pay equity for Native American officers, a part of the Shadow Wolves program.

Shadow Wolves are officers that form ICE Homeland Security Investigations’ tactical patrol unit. These officers operate in the Tohono O’odham Nation, located in southern Arizona, and track human and drug smugglers along Tribal lands.

Since 1974, the Tohono O’odham Nation has allowed Shadow Wolves to patrol its lands to stem the flow of illicit activity within the region. This elite unit leverages both technology and the traditional art of tracking to detect footprints, tire tracks, and clothing associated with smuggling operations.

Over the last few years, Shadow Wolves have increasingly expanded their operation beyond tracking to investigative work and support response.

Under current law, Shadow Wolves can only be hired as tactical officers in a lower pay grade, although most of the officers have completed special agent training.

H.R. 5681 reclassifies Shadow Wolves as special agents upon successfully completing the law enforcement training requirements. H.R. 5681 also directs DHS to establish a strategy for preserving the Shadow Wolves and expanding comparable units with the consent of relevant Native American Tribes.